

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202396

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS CONVERSATION WITH
ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

1. DURING COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION FOREIGN
MINISTER CUBILLOS, WHO HEADED THE CHILEAN DELEGATION,
ASKED TO MEET WITH ME. WE MET AUGUST 8 FOR ABOUT FORTY
MINUTES. CUBILLOS' BASIC PURPOSE WAS APPARENTLY TO
ESTABLISH CONTACT AND A CHANNEL WITH ME, AND, SECONDARILY
TO GIVE ME HIS POSITION AND POINTS OF VIEW. IT SEEMED
TO ME TO BE ALMOST CATHARSIS FOR HIM; HE DID MOST OF THE
TALKING IN ALMOST STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS FASHION.

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2. IN SUMMARY, CUBILLOS MADE THREE GENERAL POINTS:

A) INDIVIDUAL USG OFFICIALS WERE IN EFFECT "INTERFERING"
IN CHILEAN MATTERS AND COMPLICATING THINGS BY THEIR PUBLIC
COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, US
COMPANIES TOLD HIM THAT, WHEN THEY CONSULTED WITH DEPART-
MENT OFFICIALS, THEY WERE TOLD TO BE CAREFUL BECAUSE
THINGS "WERE NOT GOING TO LAST DOWN THERE." HE CLAIMED

TO HAVE CHAPTER AND VERSE ON THESE KINDS OF COMMENTS.
CUBILLOS WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE FOUND THE CLIMATE IN THE
US VERY DIFFICULT, AND HE REALLY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO

TALK TO ANYONE WITH THE FRANKNESS AND OPENESS HE
DESIRED. HE WAS BY THE WAY HIGHLY LAUDATORY OF YOU AND
OF HIS RELATIONS WITH YOU; HE IN FACT CITED THIS AS
THE KIND OF MODEL HE WOULD LIKE TO REPLICATE ELSEWHERE.

B. CHILE WAS AT A CROSS-ROADS RIGHT NOW. EVENTS COULD
PROCEED ONE OF TWO WAYS--A CONTINUED MOVE TOWARD RETURN
TO CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT THOUGH THIS
WOULD BE AT THE "CHILEAN PACE AND WITH CHILEAN DIGNITY;"
OR A REACTION BY THE MILITARY AND RETURN TO AN IRON
TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE JOINED THE GOVERN-
MENT TO PUSH FOR THE MODERATE LINE. IT IS A MISTAKE,
HE SAID, TO BELIEVE THAT THE LETELIER CASE WOULD SPLIT
THE GOVERNMENT OR BRING DOWN PINOCHET. THAT WOULD NOT
HAPPEN. THINGS WHICH ALLOWED THE MILITARY HARDLINERS
TO FEEL AGGRIEVED, SUCH AS APPARENT OFFENSES TO "CHILEAN
DIGNITY," HURT THE CHANCES OF THE MODERATES.

C. ONCE THE LETELIER EXTRADITION REQUESTS ARRIVE, THE
MATTER WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SUPREME COURT AND
OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THE COURT,
CUBILLOS SAID, IS TRULY INDEPENDENT AND IT IS CERTAINLY
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RESPECTED AS SUCH WITHIN CHILE. WHAT IT SAYS WILL HAVE
THE FULL SUPPORT OF ALL CHILEANS. THE COURT CAN DO ONE
OF THREE THINGS: (1) REFUSE THE REQUEST ON THE GROUNDS
THAT THE EVIDENCE IS INSUFFICIENT; (2) ACCEPT THE
EVIDENCE AS SUFFICIENT AND EXTRADITE; OR (3) ACCEPT
THE EVIDENCE AS SUFFICIENT BUT EXERCISE ITS PREROGATIVE
UNDER THE TREATY AND TRY THE ACCUSED IN CHILE RATHER
THAN EXTRADITE. CUBILLOS SAID HE BELIEVES THE LAST IS
WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

3. I LIMITED MYSELF TO SAYING SIMPLY THAT AS HE KNEW
OUR RELATIONS HAD BEEN DEEPLY AFFECTED BY THE HISTORY
OF EVENTS SINCE ALLENDE'S FALL AND THE VERY SERIOUS
RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THAT HAD OCCURRED. I
RECOGNIZED THE VERY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN INDIVIDUAL
HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. CHILEANS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT,
NOW, THE LETELIER CASE IS A CENTRAL ELEMENT IN OUR
RELATIONS. IT WAS, HOWEVER, OUR VERY FIRM POSITION
THAT THIS WAS A STRICTLY LEGAL, JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION
WHICH HAD NO POLITICAL INTENT AND WHICH WE INTENDED TO
KEEP "DEPOLITICIZED." THIS CASE, HOWEVER, DEEPLY
AFFECTED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND WHAT CHILE DOES WITH

RESPECT TO OUR EXTRADITION REQUESTS WILL INEVITABLY BE
CLOSELY WATCHED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE FULLY
EXPECTED THAT THE SINCERITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE CHILEAN
JUDICIAL PROCESS WOULD BE EVIDENT IN THIS MATTER.

CUBILLOS' THIRD POINT ABOVE WAS IN REPLY TO MY COMMENTS.
VANCE

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